

NOAA
FISHERIES

Northwest
Fisheries
Science Center

1.0 2015 Science Program Review: Protected Fish Species West Coast Wide

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Centers

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NOAA Fisheries Program Reviews

Are we doing good science?

Are we doing the right science?



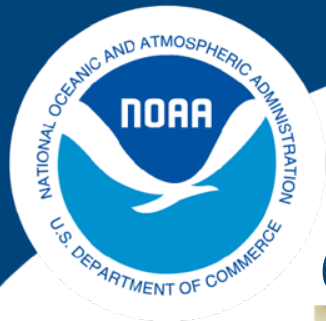
Why Program Reviews, Why Now?

- Beginning in Jan 2013, NOAA Fisheries is **conducting a systematic review of fisheries science** programs by theme
- **Peer reviews ensure delivery of high quality, trusted, timely science** to fulfill mandates and requirements under the ESA and MMPA, and meet the needs of the regulatory partners

Context For This Joint Review

High level view of the scope of the science enterprise at the Centers

And context for why a joint review of protected fish species



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West Coast Science:

Key marine resources

Coastal Pelagics



West Coast Groundfish



Highly Migratory Species



Pacific Salmon



Marine Mammals and Turtles





**West coast
salmon ESUs total
area = 42.6 million
hectares**



**Roughly the size
of Italy, Austria,
and Switzerland.**

By the Numbers

Staff:

- NWC ca. 290 (Federal) 80 (contractors) in 6 locations
- SWC ca. 180 (Federal) 100 (contractors) in 4 locations

FY14 Funding (Total):

- NWC: \$51 M NMFS, \$21 M external (\$20 M salmon related)
- SWC: \$38 M NMFS, \$13 M external

Protected Fish Species Science

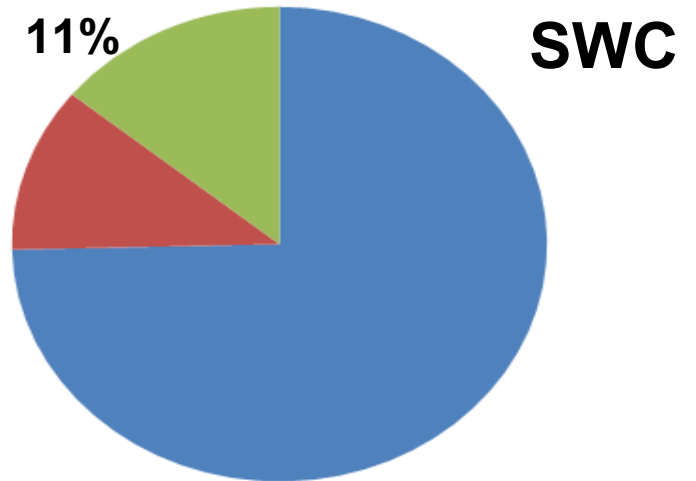
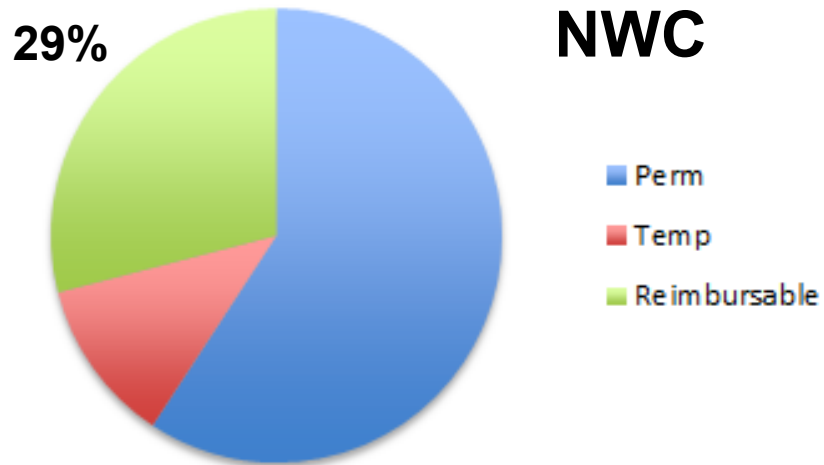
- NWC: 20% of NMFS funding (43% of total funding)
- SWC: 18% of NMFS funding (23% of total funding)

NMFS Funding (annual, millions)

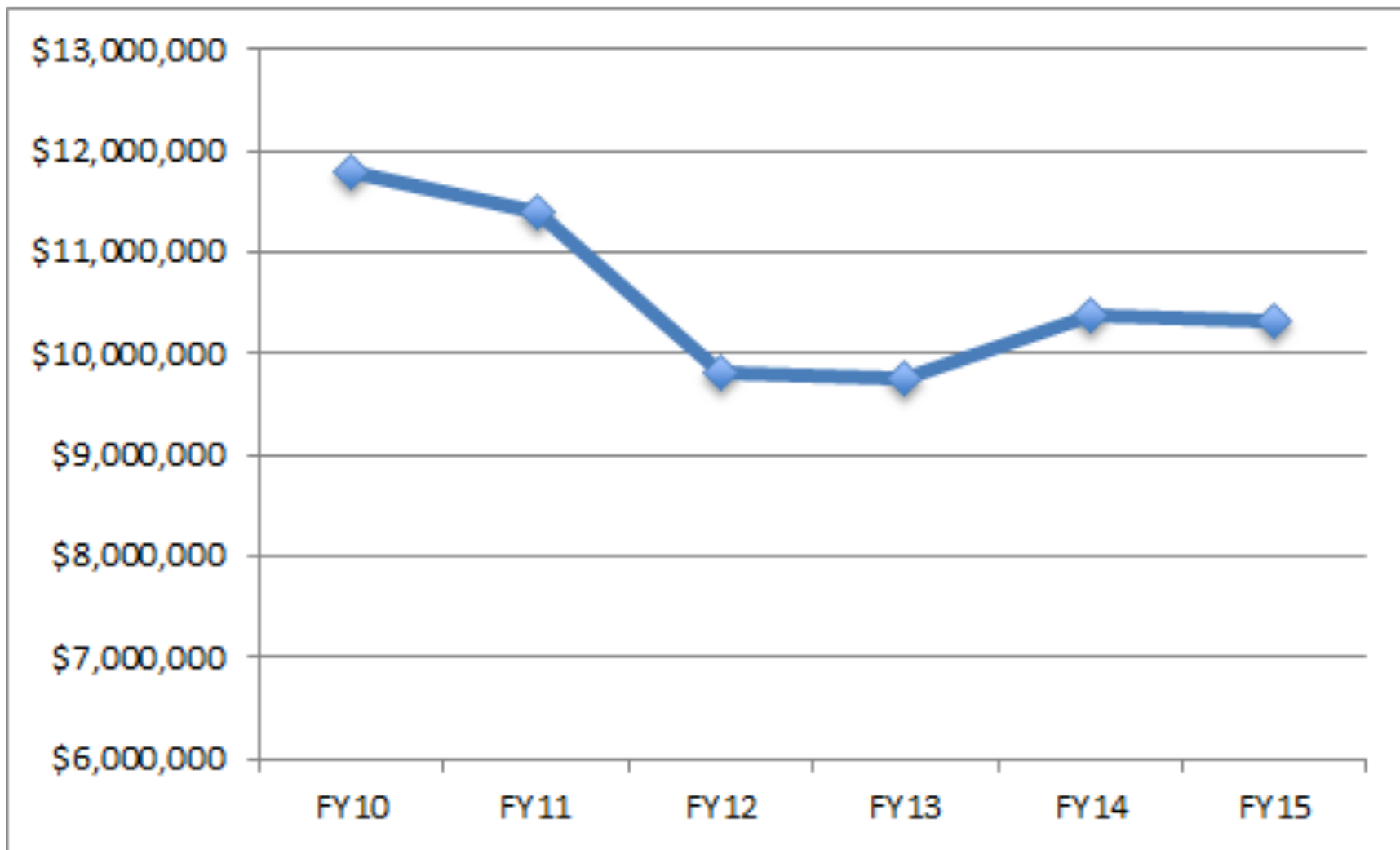
Funding Category

	NWC	SWC
Fish	21.1	16.2
Mammals	1.3	7.9
Pacific Salmon	10.3	6.7
West Coast Observers	5.6	0.0
Other Activities Supporting Fisheries	4.4	7.3
Temporary funds	8.5	7.2
Center Allocation:	51.3	43.8

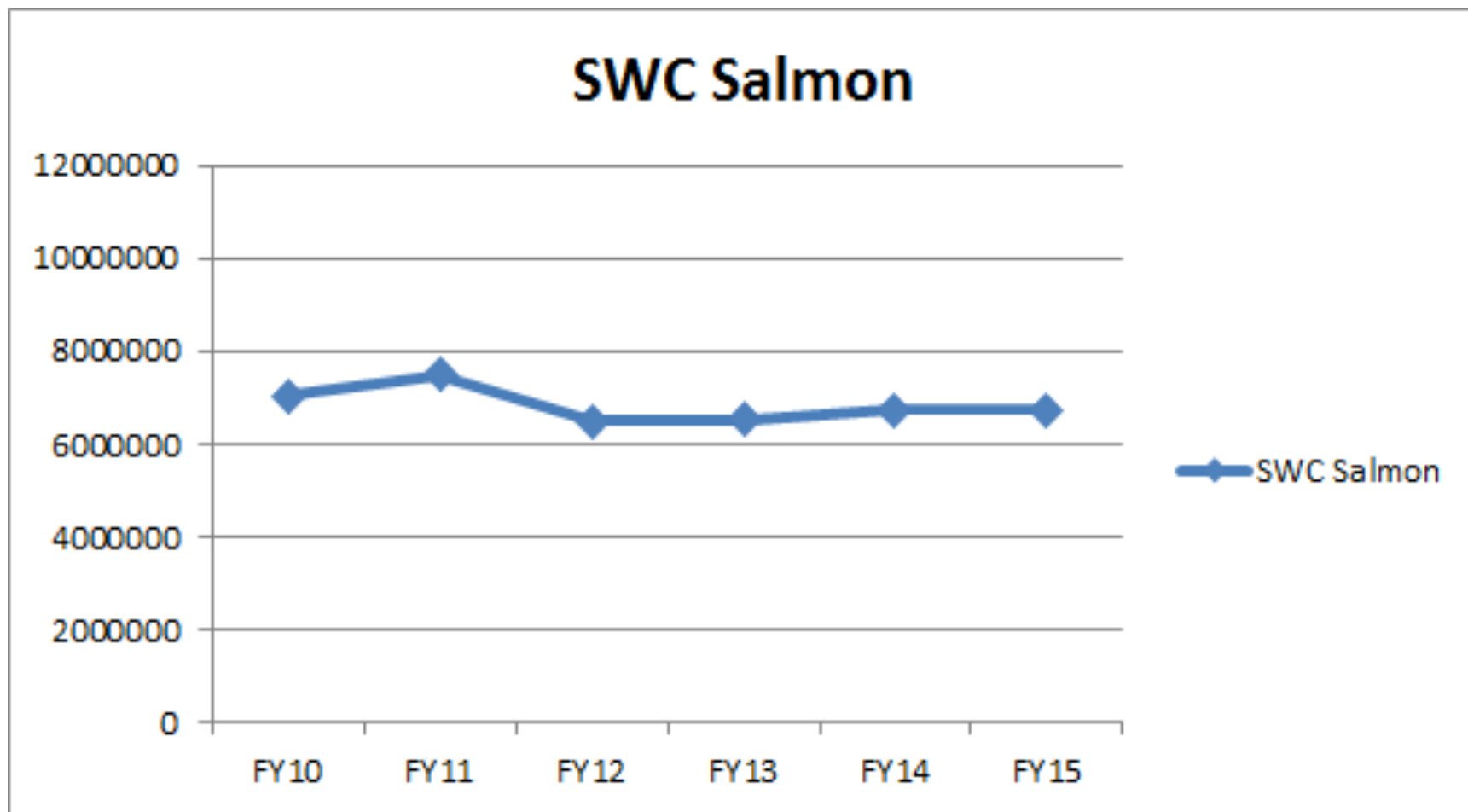
Reimbursable Funding



Budget Trend -- NWC



Budget Trend -- SWC



Strategic Planning

2013: Revised Strategic Science Plans

2013 – 2015: Annual guidance memos

Planning documents support priorities laid out in the NMFS and NOAA Strategic Plans

Setting Priorities [something like this]

- Strategic Plan provides foundation
- Mandates drive our priorities
- Implementation Process:
 - Online Project Database
 - Project descriptions
 - Project rankings
 - Criteria
 - Importance to mission and relationship to strategic plan, AGM
 - Relative risk (scientifically, economically, politically)

Note: This is an evolving process.



Directors' Guidance for FY15 and FY16

- West coast salmon recovery (BiOp technical support)
- Habitat assessment (Puget Sound-scale, WCR partnership)
- CA current ecosystem monitoring
- Supply information and tools to support management of anadromous species impacted by the severe drought
- Complete 5-year status reviews of threatened and endangered salmonids



Science and Management of ESA Listed Fish

NW and SW Centers and West Coast Regional Office

- Technical support for Consultations (WCR – 846 FY 14, 40% of NMFS consultations)

Pacific Fishery Management Council (PMFC)

- Support for setting harvest guidelines to achieve recovery of listed Pacific salmon

Recovery Partners (active partners)

- Federal, State, Tribe



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Eulachon, Green Sturgeon, PS Rockfish

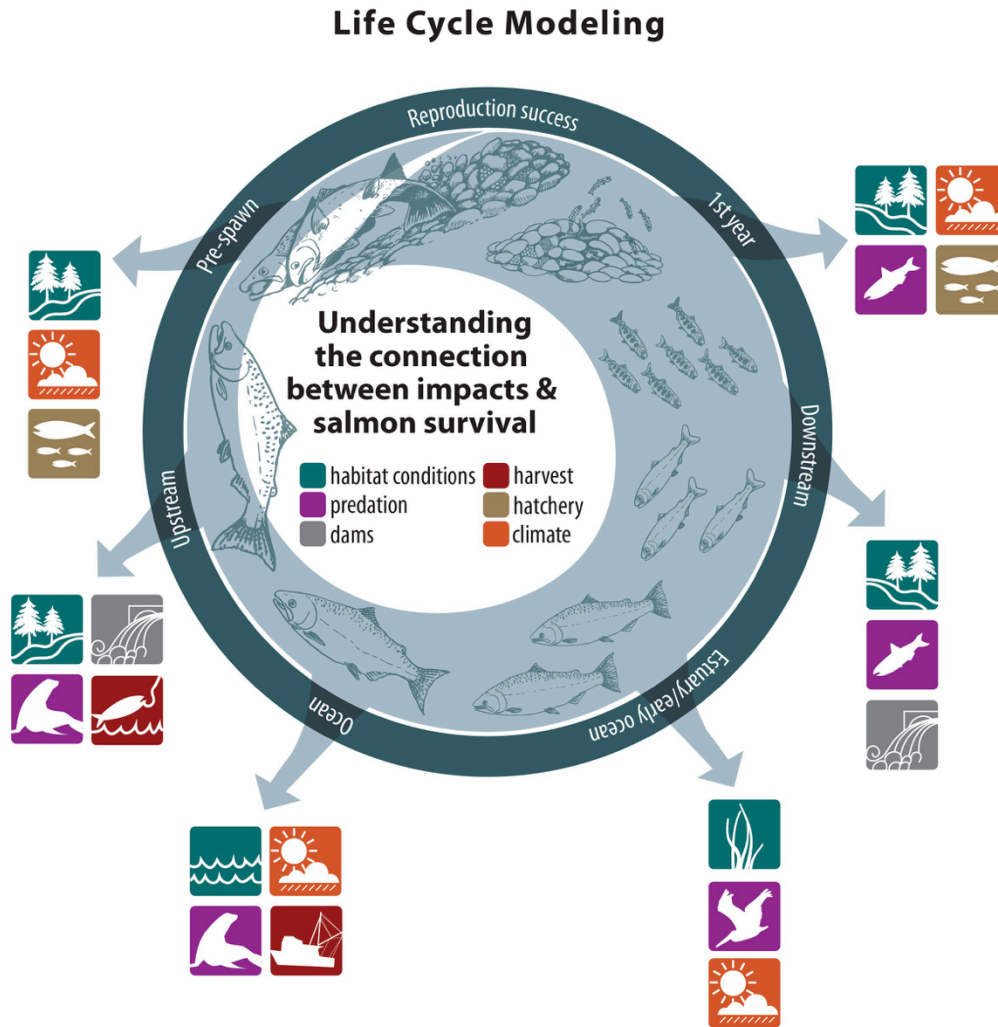
- Increasing demands for other listed fish species
- Large data gaps, no directed funding
- Further emphasizing value of ecosystem approach
- Integrated Ecosystem Assessment as a tool



Scope of Review (from Terms of Reference)

- Evaluate current scientific programs that provide information on the conservation and management of marine mammals, endangered or threatened wildlife, and species of concern under NMFS jurisdiction
- Extent to which current science programs are focused on the highest information needs identified by NOAA Fisheries managers
- Provide advice on the direction and quality of the data collection and assessment programs.

Structure of Review



Reviewers' Tasks

Reviewers should review and comment on (from Terms of Reference):

1. Do current and planned protected species scientific activities **fulfill mandates and requirements under the ESA** and MMPA, and **meet the needs of the regulatory partners**?
2. Are there **opportunities** to be pursued in conducting protected species science, including shared and collaborative approaches with partners?
3. Are the protected **species scientific objectives adequate**, and **is the best suite of techniques and approaches to meet those objectives**?
4. Are the protected species **studies being conducted properly** (survey design, statistical rigor, standardization, integrity, peer review, transparency, confidentiality, etc.)?
5. **How are advances in protected species science** and methodological approaches **being communicated and applied in NMFS**?



Report and Report Out

- Individual reports from each member of the panel
- Chair provides a summary report
- Draft reports by end of the week, ~one week to polish
- Friday mid-morning report-out by panel
- Center provides response and submits to HQ (one month/six weeks)
- Final reports and Center responses posted publicly in ~3 months
- National synthesis and actions end of calendar year

Thank you!

Questions?

